

To Transportation Committee Chairs Sen. Christine Cohen, Rep. Roland Lemar, and Distinguished Members

I am writing in support of HB5917 - [AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE VISION ZERO COUNCIL](#).

Traffic violence is personal to me because I have almost been hit several times due to cars not obeying traffic laws on my way to work (S. Frontage Road and York Street), and I have had to personally treat victims of accidents at several high risk intersections, including a law student who was hit at the aforementioned intersection after visiting his sister at the hospital and died while we were treating him.

Just this morning, I was almost hit while crossing the aforementioned intersection during a green crosswalk light when a car attempted to turn right during a red light despite the multiple signs saying "No Right Turn on Red." It has impacted my life and the lives of those around me as we cross that intersection multiple times a day and experience some type of violation weekly, if not daily. We are also the ones treating the pedestrians and bikers that are often the victims of these violations.

I believe Section 3 will contribute to a safer Connecticut for all road users. Many of the patients from motorcycle vs motor vehicle traumas that come into the hospital involve a motorcycle operator in significantly poorer condition. Often these operators are not wearing protective headgear. One specific patient I helped treat stands out as a big portion of his skull and brain had to be removed due to crashing his motorcycle, leaving him with a concave skull and significantly decreased mental capacities. As safety is not enough motivation to wear protective headgear as people often assume it will "never be them," adding a monetary incentive will likely have a protective impact.

I believe Sections 11-13 will contribute to a safer Connecticut as traffic laws change, but drivers have no incentive to keep up with them. The only time I ever studied traffic laws was in preparation for my first license, and even then, only as they applied to cars. This video will remove a drivers' ability to claim they didn't know about an updated law and also reinforce that driving is a privilege to be taken seriously.

I believe Sections 16-19 will contribute to a safer Connecticut for all road users as well. Due to the plethora of one-way streets in New Haven and other major cities, it can be challenging for law enforcement to be present at high risk sites. At the S. Frontage/York St intersection alone, cars speed and run red lights DAILY because there is usually no penalty. Connecticut needs automated enforcement for speeding and red lights because the majority of accidents that have occurred at this intersection are a direct result of this lack of oversight and consequence

that enables drivers to continue their actions. It is only one intersection but accounts for hundred of violations in a week. I shudder to imagine the cases in other, even more busy intersections.

It is time to update our laws to reflect our priority on road safety for all users. I strongly support HB5917 and urge you to support this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

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